Role of CTRI

4125. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new role has been outlined for the CTRI in Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that no new or high quality tobacco has been introduced by the CTRI in the last few years;

(c) whether CTRI has the technical ability to introduce high quality tobacco seedlings suitable for export markets in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by CTRI in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Institute is concentrating research on different types of tobacco, with emphasis on exportable types on all phases of production management with a view of attaining economic advantage/benefit to the tobacco growers through improvement in quality and quantity of tobacco.

(b) The CTRI has developed six new promising varieties of FCV tobacco during 1993—99 for different agro-ecological zones of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(c) and (d) The CTRI has the required infrastructure and expertise to cater to the research and development needs of farmers, trade and industry to promote exports by developing superior varieties and agricultural technologies. The CTRI has embarked on many research programmes with the objective of increasing tobacco productivity for major agro-ecological zones of tobacco cultivation. Research Programmes inter-alia include development of superior quality tobacco besides tackling the problems of important biotic and abiotic stresses.

Saffron Production

4126. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Globe's costiliest spices saffron is facing a very rough weather in Kashmir,